

'PLO ready for elections'

LONDON (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is ready for immediate elections in the Israeli-occupied territories if Israel guarantees it is prepared to pull out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a spokesman said Sunday. "I hereby announce that the PLO is ready for elections tomorrow if it is guaranteed freedom and democracy," Bassam Abu Sharif, a spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told the British Broadcasting Corporation. "We are ready if the world community will guarantee that the elections we go to will be one step in a process that will lead to an end of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza," he said. Abu Sharif was speaking from Tunis where Fatah, the main group within the PLO, held its congress last week. The congress called for intensified military action to end the Israeli occupation and rejected Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections.

Jordan Times

An independent newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردين تايمز جريدة مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Hanoi sees little progress in talks

BANGKOK (AP) — Warring Cambodian factions have made no progress at the Paris peace conference on deciding the role of the Khmer Rouge in a future Cambodia, the official Vietnam News Agency said in a report seen Sunday. Quoting its correspondent in the French capital, the agency said progress was blocked because a three-party resistance coalition clinging to its demand that the Khmer Rouge be included from an interim Cambodian government. The coalition group, which includes the Khmer Rouge, and the pro-Hanoi government in Cambodia are trying to resolve problems in an ad hoc committee set up by the month-long conference. The international conference also has set up three other committees to deal with aspects of the complex peace process. The Vietnamese News Agency said progress within these has been "slow" because of the Khmer Rouge problem.

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Israeli troops kill 2 Arab children

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian children and resistance activists killed four suspected collaborators in another weekend of violence in a 20-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

In the Gaza Strip, troops fired tear-gas and shots in the air to disperse Palestinians in protests over new identity cards to work in Israel, witnesses said. The troops arrested some Palestinians, they said.

An Arab hospital said a three-year-old girl, Bothina Hejo, died of gunshot wounds in her chest and arm during clashes in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

A 13-year-old Gaza boy, Faez Jabbar Abu Abeid, died Sunday of wounds suffered in a clash with troops Saturday.

Three of the suspected collaborators were killed in Nablus in the West Bank. The fourth was shot dead in Gaza.

The new deaths raised the death toll to at least 596 Arabs since the revolt erupted in December 1987. Gaza workers have been caught in a tug-of-will between Israeli occupation authorities who force them to carry the computerised cards and leaders of the uprising who urge that they forfeit them rather than work in Israel.

The cards, distributed over the last two months, will be mandatory by Friday, sources said. The cards aim to keep out Arabs "suspected" by Israel of "inciting violence."

The uprising leaders have called almost weekly general strikes, ordering workers not to go to jobs in Israel in an effort to disrupt Israel's economy.

In the Gaza Strip, soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets at youths who were stoning workers near the Erez crossing into Israel, where about 5,000 Gazans applied for entry permits before the Friday deadline, witnesses said.

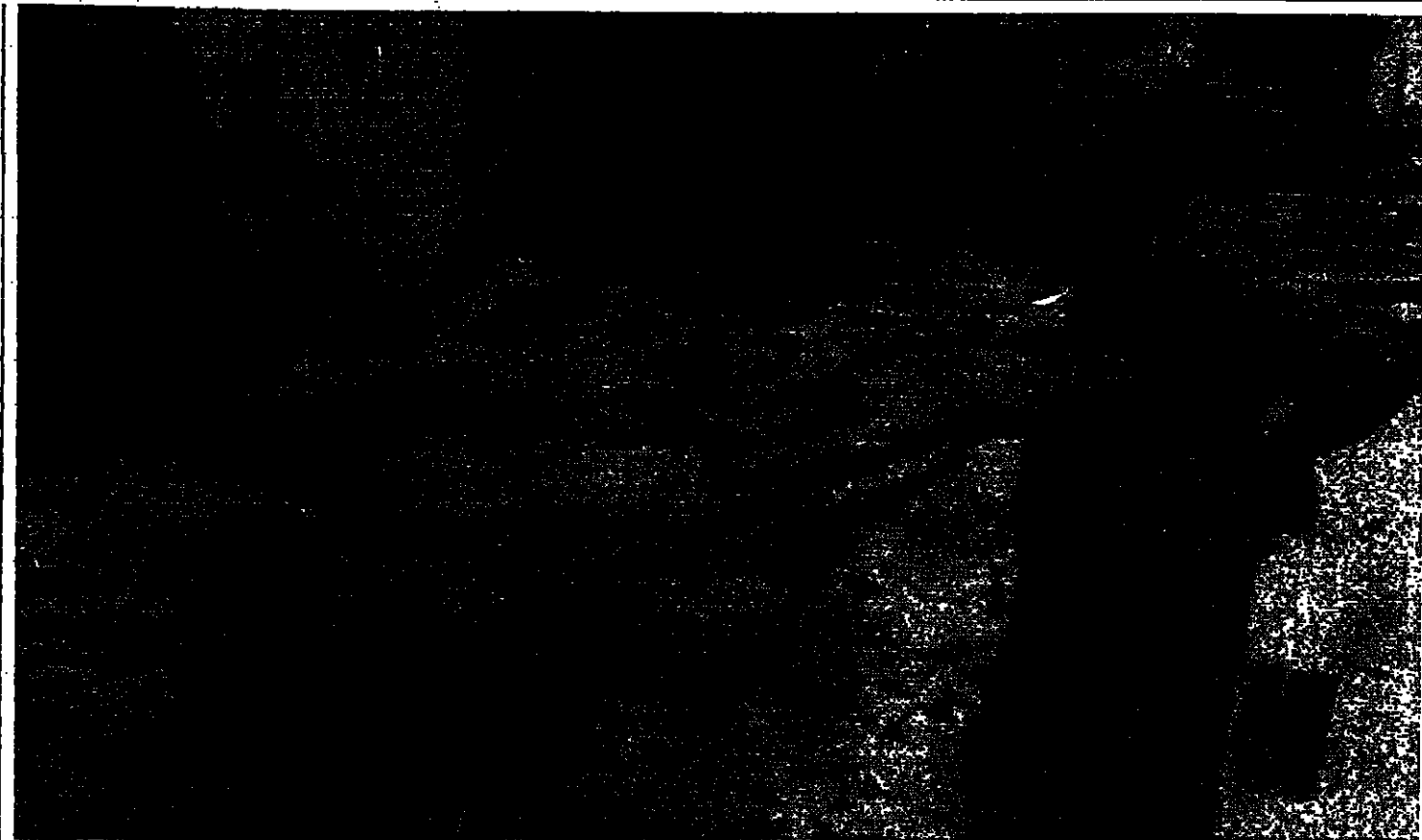
Six Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, hospital officials said. The officials said one of the victims was a 12-year-old who lost an eye when he was hit by a rubber-coated metal pellet.

In the West Bank village of Taba, masked youths hurled several fire bombs at the house of Ahmad Odeh, a well-known and dealer who sold land to Israelis, Palestinians said.

Odeh, who is protected by five armed bodyguards, ran from his house and opened fire at his attackers but no one was injured, they said.

Palestinians also said soldiers carried out overnight search-and-arrest operations in nearly a dozen West Bank villages near Jenin and Ramallah.

Hospitals reported 18 Palestinians wounded Saturday.



A bewildered old woman looking at the rubble of a house destroyed in west Beirut by shelling

Syrian-backed assault on Souq Al Gharb stalled

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A major battle erupted Sunday for control of a strategic ridge near Beirut and hospitals overflowed with civilian casualties from four days of savage artillery bombardments across the divided Lebanese capital.

Military sources said Syrian troops and allied Lebanese militiamen launched the first ground offensive since the latest fighting broke out five months ago with a dawn assault on Souq Al Gharb ridge overlooking the city.

One security source said hundreds of soldiers were killed in the battle between loyal troops to army commander Michel Aoun and Syria and its Lebanese allies. His report could not immediately be checked.

The sources said the bodies of 10 Syrian soldiers had been taken to a hospital in the suburb of Baabda. They also said one Syrian had been captured.

At least 35 civilians were killed and 80 wounded in Sunday's shelling, hospital and security sources said, raising the toll in the

past four days of artillery duels to more than 550 killed or wounded. "The sky has turned into a volcano pouring fire and death," the Syrian fireball covers Beirut," the Voice of Lebanon radio said.

In Damascus, French envoy Francois Scheer met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa in a bid by Paris to end the bloodshed. Scheer refused to comment on his 3 1/2-hours of talks, saying he would report to his government (See page 2).

Aoun warned that the Syrians were now expected to escalate their bombardment of the Christian enclave that fans out north of the capital.

The Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) claimed in a communiqué that the Souq Al Gharb garrison was overrun. But Aoun's headquarters said the four-pronged attack by 2,100 Syrian regulars, PSP militiamen and Palestinian fighters was beaten back by the army's crack 8th brigade in five hours of heavy fighting.

A military communiqué said the attacking force left some 150 dead and wounded littering the battle zone. But a senior army source later said 10 Syrians, 20 PSP men and 20 Palestinians were confirmed killed.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to say what army casualties were, but admitted there "are plenty."

He said another 12 Syrians were killed in the fighting along Beirut's dividing green line.

Police confirmed that the assault on the onetime resort town, abandoned by its population in 1983, was stalled.

As Aoun claimed "victory," PSP leader Walid Jumblatt cancelled a scheduled news conference at which he had been expected to announce the capture of Souq Al Gharb.

The shell-battered town, besieged by PSP forces for more than five years, controls a network of roads twisting through Lebanon's central mountains.

If the Syrians had captured it, they would have been able to tighten the noose around Aoun

forces besieged in their 800-square-kilometre enclave since mid-March.

The loss of Souq Al Gharb would leave Beirut's suburbs of Baabda and Yarz, where the bulk of Aoun's forces and armour are deployed, vulnerable to attack.

Aoun, 53, has lived in a bunker under the shell-blasted presidential palace in Baabda since the early days of the latest confrontation in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war. The Defence Ministry is located in nearby Yarz.

The Kuwaiti cabinet expressed deep concern Sunday over the destruction in Lebanon and exhorted the Arab League to resume efforts "to salvage Lebanon," acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadi announced.

Egypt also expressed deep anxiety at the escalating violence in Lebanon and appealed to all warring factions to assume their "national and historical responsibilities" to end the bloodshed.

Three were unaccounted for but the sources said they could not have survived. It was not immediately known whether the body of Leland, 44, was among the 13 recovered from the wreckage.

In Washington, the Defence Department confirmed an American medical team had recovered 13 bodies.

Asked about the Sunday Times report, Mahanaimi said he believed it was true, but would not comment further.

The British weekly quoted Israeli sources as saying Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has tried to keep the deaths a secret from the United States to avoid pressure to free Obeid in exchange for western hostages.

He was shown on state-run television Saturday evening appearing before a military tribunal in Khartoum's twin city, Omdurman.

Banna, who belonged to deposed Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party, was not given a formal chance to speak but could be heard protesting that he had been convicted in advance through allegation in the junta-controlled news media.

After the coup Sudanese television showed pictures of large stocks of tinned food it said were received as foreign aid and hoarded in a warehouse belonging to Banna.

The trial, held in the Umma Party's former headquarters, was adjourned until next Saturday when Banna will be given a chance to defend himself.

Discovery and Atlantis have made two space trips each since flights resumed last September.

Adamson and Mark Brown stowed several experiments. Some of those tests were believed to be connected with the proposed space-based missile defence project known as "Star Wars," while others involved determining how people can serve as military observers from space.

Columbia last flew in January 1986, landing 10 days before the Challenger explosion that killed the crew of seven. After the accident, U.S. space officials concentrated on making safety modifications to the two newer shuttles, Discovery and Atlantis, before turning attention to Columbia.

To prepare for the trip back to Earth, Columbia commander Shaw and pilot Richard Richards conducted a series of tests Saturday to make certain the shuttle's computers and control jets were ready.

In addition, mission specialists David Leestma, James

King, Sharif Zaid meet American senator U.S. to maintain aid programme for Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States will maintain its present aid programme for Jordan and the present excellent relations between President George Bush and His Majesty King Hussein are bound to help increase future cooperation, U.S. Senator Peter Domenici said in a statement here Sunday.

Speaking after an audience with His Majesty King Hussein and a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the Republican Senator from New Mexico said he was delighted over the outcome of his visit and his meetings with Jordanian leaders.

His visit, he said, is mainly

aimed at discussing economic conditions in the region and relations between Washington and Amman are bound to help the U.S. administration better understand the economic situation in the Kingdom.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Domenici and Sharif Zaid reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and cooperation between the United States and Jordan in economic and financial fields.

The meetings were attended by U.S. Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Domenici's delegation. The senator later left for the

occupied West Bank.

King receives message

King Hussein Sunday received a written message from Mauritania President Muwaiya Ould Sid Ahmad Al Taya delivered at the Royal Court by Mauritanian envoy Sheikh Sayed Ahmad Ould Baba.

Petra, which reported the meeting, did not disclose the contents of the message.

The envoy, who is Mauritania's foreign minister, later was received by Qasem. The two ministers reviewed bilateral cooperation and Arab affairs.

Dollar dumped against dinar

By Rana Sabbagh Reuters

AMMAN — Jordanian rushed to sell dollars for dinars Sunday following last week's Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) intervention to stabilise the local currency and aid payments by Arab states.

"People are dumping their dollars in a state of panic," said one banker. "Our business is amazing. Everyone wants dinars."

Bankers and dealers said many people began selling dollars last week but business picked up dramatically when they opened Sunday after a two-day holiday.

Banks were buying dollars at 720 to 760 fils and selling them for around 800 compared to Thursday's buy/sell rates of 800 and 820.

On July 31 the CBJ set up a system of free market and official dinar rates to curb the black market and encourage expatriates to send money home.

It fixed the official rate Sunday at \$85.2/591.2 compared to Thursday's \$80.1/586.1 after the dollar rose internationally.

The Central Bank sold \$16.5 million to banks at 815 fils a week ago and told them to sell for no more than \$20 to stabilise the free market.

It provided a further \$10 million to banks selling at the

official rate to help to finance imports of some medicines, subsidised food and fees of Jordanians studying abroad.

Black market dealers adjusted their rates to 775/787 fils to the dollar Sunday compared with Thursday's 800.

Bankers attributed the dinar's new stability to the receipt of \$270 million in aid from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, possible foreign currency deposits by Arab Gulf states and the Central Bank intervention.

"This is the first time in a year that the Central Bank has shown its muscle and taken decisive action in the local market," one banker said.

13 bodies found in Leland's wrecked plane in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Rescuers have recovered 13 bodies from the wreckage of a plane that disappeared last week as it flew a group including U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland to visit an Ethiopian refugee camp, officials said Sunday.

They said all 16 people on board appeared to have been killed when the plane crashed in rugged country between Gambela and Dembi-Dolo in western Ethiopia Monday.

Three were unaccounted for but the sources said they could not have survived. It was not immediately known whether the body of Leland, 44, was among the 13 recovered from the wreckage.

In Washington, the Defence Department confirmed an American medical team had recovered 13 bodies.

Leland, chairman of the House of Representatives' Select Committee on Hunger, was travelling with a group of U.S. and Ethiopian officials to visit the refugee camp at Fundo on the Sudanese border where more than 30,000 Sudanese refugees receive U.S. aid.

An extensive air search was mounted by Ethiopia and the United States when the Twin Otter disappeared in bad weather but low cloud and rain hampered the operation.

There was an earlier false alarm when a satellite picked up faint signals which it was believed might have been from the aircraft, but no trace was found in the area from which they appeared to emanate.

The search was intensified in the Gambela and Dembi-Dolo area after residents there re-

ported seeing a plane apparently in trouble early last week.

Bad weather forced search aircraft sent to the area on Saturday to return to Addis Ababa. The hunt resumed Sunday morning and airport sources said the crews of two U.S. helicopters spotted the wreckage soon after midday.

Leland, a Texas Democrat, was accompanied by four other members of a congressional party and by four officials from the U.S. embassy. There were five Ethiopian officials and the Ethiopian pilot and co-pilot.

In Washington, President George Bush said Sunday he was deeply saddened.

"I have known, admired and worked with Mickey Leland for many years," Bush said, "his sense of compassion... has aided millions of people from Houston to Addis Ababa."

Ex-leader on trial in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's new military junta has put on trial the first senior figure of the civilian government it overthrew.

Idris Al Banna, deputy chairman of Sudan's five-man collective presidency until the June 30 coup, is accused of enriching himself with aid donated by Libya and Syria.

He was shown on state-run television Saturday evening appearing before a military tribunal in Khartoum's twin city, Omdurman.

Banna, who belonged to deposed Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party, was not given a formal chance to speak but could be heard protesting that he had been convicted in advance through allegation in the junta-controlled news media.

After the coup Sudanese television showed pictures of large stocks of tinned food it said were received as foreign aid and hoarded in a warehouse belonging to Banna.

The trial, held in the Umma Party's former headquarters, was adjourned until next Saturday when Banna will be given a chance to defend himself.

35 killed in Sri Lankan violence

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan police and military sources said Sunday at least 35 people had been killed in the past 24 hours as President Ranasinghe Premadasa prepared to meet an opposition leader and three human rights activists.

Military sources said that the bodies of 14 unidentified civilians were found at the roadside at Embilipitiya in the south Saturday night. They had been shot and burnt.

At Laggala in central province, nine unidentified bodies were found near a culvert. Police said they did not know who was responsible for the deaths.

Two policemen were among 11 people killed by rebels in the same period, police said Sunday. Members of the families of six security men have been killed in the past 10 days.

Two of the activists who will meet Premadasa Monday, Buddhist monks Madulloluwe Sobitha and Murruthuwe Ananda, are known to have had discussions with the outlawed People's Liberation Front trying to overthrow the government.

The front, known by its Sinhalese acronym (JVP), is blamed by the government for most violence on the Indian

Ocean island but government forces have been accused of extra-judicial killings.

The other members of the delegation will be Dinesh Gunawardene, leader of the opposition People's Party, and lawyer Prins Gunasekera.

On Saturday, a senior television journalist was shot dead by three men outside his home at Ratmalana, 11 kilometres from Colombo.

Police said they believed the JVP was responsible for the murder of Kulastri Ameratunga, chief news editor of the state-owned Rupavahini Corporation and the third person from the media to be murdered in three weeks.

Official sources say at least 200 people have been killed on the island since the beginning of August.

The government has denied that some groups responsible for the killings were from the security forces.

Military sources said several television and radio staff had resigned or were in hiding after JVP threats.

Television, radio, and the state-run newspaper group were brought under military control last month after employees said they were afraid to work.

Space shuttle Columbia lands safely after secret mission

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (Agencies) — The space shuttle Columbia, completing its first mission since the 1986 explosion of its sister ship Challenger, landed safely Sunday after deploying what is believed to be a powerful spy satellite over the Soviet Union.

The apparently trouble-free, secret military mission of the fleet's oldest shuttle ended on a dry lake-bed runway in the California desert where Columbia made a picture-perfect landing.

Columbia, the oldest member of the shuttle fleet, touched down at 6:38 a.m. (1338 GMT) after a mission that lasted five days, one hour and 56 seconds.

Air Force Col. Brewster Shaw, commander of the five-man crew, guided the 97-ton winged

spaceship to a touchdown on a hard clay runway after a flight that covered more than 3.2 million kilometres.

Sonic booms cracked overhead as Columbia descended through a clear sky and made its sweeping approach to runway 17 on Rogers Dry Lake.

An hour before landing, Shaw fired twin braking rockets to drop the shuttle out of orbit and start it on a fiery dive through the atmosphere and into the desert air base 130 kilometres north of Los Angeles.

Officials lifted a curtain of silence to report the successful firing of the braking rockets and provided updated information as Columbia came home.

The weather was ideal, with clear skies, unlimited visibility

and mild temperatures.

Although as many as half a million people have flocked to the desert air base to watch previous shuttle land, Sunday's touchdown was closed to the public because of the classified nature of the mission.

Most news about the flight has been blacked out on Defence Department orders since an overhaul Columbia lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, last Tuesday on its first flight in more than three years.

Officials made only periodic statements that spacecraft and crew were fine and to disclose the landing day and time.

Sources close to the project said the main goal of the flight was the deployment of a sophisticated, 10-ton spy satellite designed to snap highly detailed

photographs of military installations, troop movements and other targets of interest around the world.

It would help the United States verify Soviet compliance with arms treaties, just as Soviet satellites do over the United States and Europe.

Air Force Secretary Donald Rice confirmed Wednesday a satellite was deployed by the astronauts during their first day in orbit, but he would not discuss its purpose.

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U.S. may have to return Iran assets

By Steve Holland
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Freedom for eight American hostages in Lebanon may depend on whether the United States can repay millions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets without it appearing to be ransom money.

The United States froze Iranian assets in 1979 when the Shah of Iran was toppled. Some of the money has been returned and the remainder is being negotiated by a tribunal in the Hague.

Iran says if Washington returns the money, it would use its influence to persuade pro-Iranian factions in Lebanon to free the hostages. But the United States says such a payment would look too much like a ransom.

Some analysts say U.S. diplomats should reach an agreement that would free the captives and repay Iran but would not appear as an outright money-for-hostages swap.

Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Stansfield Turner says it could be done in the same way former President Ronald Reagan persuaded Israel to trade 766 Arab prisoners for 39 Americans on a hijacked airliner in June 1985.

"The timing was set off a couple of months so it didn't appear too obvious, but it was a deal no matter how you cut it," he said.

President George Bush has let it be known that he would like better relations with Iran, but he will not discuss anything that could be interpreted as trading money for hostages.

The American people appear to have mixed feelings.

A Time magazine poll this week said 76 per cent of Americans were against paying a ransom for the hostages, but 58 per cent said the United States should negotiate with "terrorists" for their release.

Last year France was in a similar position. Two weeks after France's last three hostages were released in Beirut on May 4, 1988, Paris said it would settle the outstanding balance on a 1974

loan of \$1 billion made during the Shah's rule.

Richard Murphy, who was Reagan's assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, says the French came close to appearing to be paying for their captives.

"We don't want to do that. We think that encourages more seizures. The assets issue will be settled, but they're never going to get it settled by linking it to the hostages," he said.

Iran expert Shireen Hunter of the Washington Centre for Strategic and International Studies says Iran should believe Bush when he says Iran will benefit if it works to free the hostages.

"The Iranians are going to want some assurances and some inducements to use all the political capital they have in Lebanon and do their best in a serious way to help us get out hostages."

"But obviously one has to realize the political realities in the United States... we can't say release the assets first and then see if Iran will help us get our people out. It has to be some kind of parallel move in that direction without making any connection."

The Iran-United States claims tribunal has been working on unfreezing the assets for about seven years. Iran claims it is still owed \$12 billion but the Washington's estimate is in the millions of dollars.

Dan Levitt, a New York attorney representing Iran, said that at its present pace the court still has two or three years of work ahead. Part of the problem involves deposits Iran put down for military purchases that were never delivered.

An Arab diplomat says the United States might as well pay off the assets since it is going to do so eventually.

"What is the United States going to do with the assets, wait for the Shah to come back? I'm not suggesting negotiating with 'terrorists'. But if paying this amount of money will get the hostages out for sure, then I see nothing wrong with reaching a kind of agreement without making it look like a payoff."

Quest for power in Iran may herald policy shifts

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — Radical Islamic leaders are fighting hard to get the key foreign and intelligence posts in Iran's new government, which could create a split in foreign and economic policy.

Newly-elected President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is expected to announce his cabinet after parliament reconvenes in the coming week.

The names that appear will indicate whether Iran will focus on economic revival and reconstruction of international political ties, Iranian and Western analysts said Sunday.

"If the hardliners get these posts, there will inevitably be confrontation over future policy," said an Iranian analyst.

Rafsanjani has made clear he wants to concentrate on rebuilding an economy which is alive but barely breathing after eight years of war with Iraq and confrontation with the West.

He has ended Tehran's long-standing hostility to Moscow and used the latest crisis over Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon to negotiations to the United States, the "great Satan" of Iran's revolution.

Iranian political sources close to senior parliamentarians in Tehran said Rafsanjani appeared assured of getting the men he wanted into the main economic portfolios but the radicals believed he could not exclude them entirely.

"It is on a fine edge," said one source, who declined to be identified.

Current Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi has been most outspoken in contradicting Rafsanjani. Western analysts believe his post could go to former interior minister and Rafsanjani supporter Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri.

The sources said the radicals were struggling to have current Prime Minister Mir-Hossein



Hashemi Rafsanjani



Ali Akbar Velayati

Mousavi, whose job disappears in new presidential powers, as foreign minister, and Mohammad Mousavi Khoeiniha as internal security chief.

Iranian analysts said Rafsanjani's preferred choice for foreign minister is Mohammad Javad Larjani, fluent in English and a doctor of logic and mathematics from the University of California. They said the present foreign

minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, was lined up for the post of vice-president.

Khoeiniha was one of the religious leaders that Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution brought to prominence, and is one of the best examples of what political analysts of Iran mean when they use the term "hardliners."

Khoeiniha led the assault on the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

He stands firmly behind Khomeini's first rule that no political, social or economic pressures must be allowed to compromise the purity of Islamic principles, the analysts said.

But the current head of internal security, Mohammad Mohammadi Reza Shahri, who does not oppose Rafsanjani's policies, had strong clerical backing of his own in Iran's holy city of Qom and might prove a tough man to shift, the analysts said.

Rafsanjani seems to want the post of defence minister, now combining the regular forces and the powerful Revolutionary Guards, for his supporter Mohsen Rafiqdost, a former Revolutionary Guards minister, the sources said.

They said Rafsanjani's men to watch for in the economic ministries were Mohsen Nourbakhsh, a California-trained economist and former central bank governor, and Habib Ollah Asgariadi, an influential spokesman for merchants' interests in parliament.

Nourbakhsh could be involved in economic planning, and Asgariadi is tipped as commerce minister, they said. Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, another supporter of Rafsanjani's policies, was also mentioned as possible economic reconstruction chief.

Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Irvani, Oil Minister Gholaeza Aqazadeh and Heavy Industry Minister Behzad Nabavi were most likely to remain, they said.

Any dramatic departures from these names will be watched carefully in case they show Rafsanjani's power to implement his policies could be undermined, Western analysts said.



A Lebanese woman inspects the wreckage of her home devastated by bombardments in Beirut.

France launches diplomatic efforts for Lebanon peace

DAMASCUS (R) — A senior French envoy met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa Sunday as part of a drive by Paris to end the bitter fighting devastating Lebanon.

French embassy officials refused to give any details of Scheer's visit. They said he would not talk to the press and all statements would be issued in Paris.

At the demand of the French president, five envoys are being sent to Damascus, the Vatican, Moscow, Washington and Tunisia "in liaison with the European Community (EC)" to discuss the

deleterious situation, the French Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

A ministry statement condemned "with the greatest firmness" the massive bombardments which each day add new victims among the Lebanese civilian population. "It called for a lifting of all blockades so dialogue could be restarted."

Damascus accused Aoun Saturday of being responsible for the latest round of violence in Lebanon, saying he had rejected a ceasefire offered by the forces backed by Syria.

Syrian newspapers said the only way to solve the Lebanese crisis was to remove Aoun, who precipitated the fighting in mid-March by seeking to extend his control beyond the Christian enclave and vowing to drive the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon from the country.

"The national forces which realise conspiracy (by Aoun) is on full alert... salvation could not be made without ousting this (Aoun) clique," the official organ of the ruling Baath Party, Al Baath, said.

The Syrian Times said Aoun's role was part of what it termed Israel's war against the Lebanese. "Aoun's war, like Israel's war, is a war against the Arab character of Lebanon," the paper said.

War followed the wounded from the Beirut blitz to their sick beds Saturday, forcing patients at a West Beirut hospital to flee underground to avoid further injury.

Two shells struck the first floor of the Beirut hospital some 500 metres from the green line battle zone, starting a fire which spread panic among patients.

Hospital officials said the sick, some wounded in the fighting which flared Thursday, were evacuated together with staff to an underground emergency room.

The hospital announced over radio stations that it could accept no more casualties from the artillery, tank and rocket battles.

"We're ordinary people and when the shelling and fire is too intense we can't do it," said a Red Cross worker in east Beirut. "Sometimes we do it anyway," he added.

War follows the wounded from the Beirut blitz to their sick beds Saturday, forcing patients at a West Beirut hospital to flee underground to avoid further injury.

Rising prices put squeeze on Afghans

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

KABUL — In the dusty, fly-ridden food bazaars of Kabul, astute merchants check to see whether the roads are open or closed before setting the price of key staples like rice and flour.

During the past month, the Logar road, which had been the main route for transporting grain and produce from Pakistan, has been closed. The other key road to Pakistan, southeast through Jalalabad, has been closed intermittently because of the guerrillas' siege of the city.

For most of the 2.25 million Afghans living in the capital and facing almost daily rocket attacks, the result has been a steep increase in food prices on the open market. The price for flour, used to make the traditional Afghan flat bread called nan, has shot up the highest.

"People are not happy. They are very hungry now because food is too expensive," said Gul Mohammad, a bearded trader selling three-kilogramme sacks of flour on the side of the road at the new market in western Kabul.

Rebel goal
It's not clear whether the Logar road has been closed because of civil war fighting or

a blockade by the U.S.-backed guerrillas who have been battling since 1978 to overthrow the country's Soviet-supported government.

But the Pakistan-based guerrillas say that soaring food prices help their cause.

Abdul Sera of the fundamentalist group Hezb-e-Islami Khalist, which receives substantial aid from the United States, said the guerrillas' strategy was to squeeze the capital and force residents to evacuate. That would enable the guerrillas to step up their attacks on the city.

"We want to make it so expensive that people leave Kabul," Sera told the Associated Press in Islamabad, Pakistan. "They are facing a big shortage of food."

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami group, said the often-quarrelsome guerrilla factions must develop a coordinated plan to cut off all the roads leading into the capital in order to take Kabul.

"We must have total blockade," he told a Western journalist in Peshawar last week.

An average Afghan worker earns about 3,500 afghanis a month, now worth less than \$10. Inflation is rampant and U.N. officials estimate prices have gone up 200 per cent since

Jan. 1. Closing the Logar road has made the situation worse: the price of a three-kilogramme sack of flour in Kabul has risen from 670 afghanis (\$1.72) on July 4 to 850 afghanis (\$2.43) this past week — 27 per cent of a worker's monthly salary. The cost of one nan, or piece of flat bread, has jumped from six afghanis (1.5 U.S. cents) to 14 afghanis (3.6 cents).

Increased migration
In recent weeks, U.N. sources said, they have seen an increase in the number of Kabul residents migrating north to areas where there are fewer rockets and food is cheaper and more plentiful.

"I can say all people are facing malnutrition. All they have is one piece of bread and tea three times a day," said Mohammad Shah, a 33-year-old university lecturer. "I don't know how we survive... if the roads are blocked, we will die of hunger."

Ironically, last weekend more than 100 trucks were lined up outside Kabul's main silo, waiting to unload sacks of grain. But their cargo isn't for immediate use.

Stockpiling grain
The grain was donated by the Soviet Union and had been

stored in Haritan near the Soviet border.

The government is using it to replenish grain reserves in Kabul, hoping to avoid a repeat of last winter's severe shortages of food and fuel.

Hungry Kabul residents lined up in the dark in sub-freezing temperatures in the worst winter here in 16 years to buy nan, but sometimes there wasn't any because there wasn't any fuel for the ovens to bake it.

Brian Stockwell of the World Food Programme said the Afghan government has reported the silo now holds about 20,000 metric tonnes of grain, up from just under 8,000 metric tonnes last week.

While the silo has a capacity of 50,000 metric tonnes, the Ministry of Light Industry and Food has said it can stockpile only about 40,000 metric tonnes for the winter, Stockwell said.

That is less than half the estimated 90,000 to 100,000 metric tonnes needed to get Kabul through the worst three winter months, Stockwell said.

It isn't clear yet where the rest will come from, but it could be donated by the United Nations, or possibly the Soviets. Negotiations with the Soviets are going on in Moscow and Geneva, Stockwell said.

In the past week, the silo has been a prime target of guerrilla

rocket attacks. Many rockets missed, but Monday one shattered windows and caused minor damage.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the rebels' attempts to destroy the silo were an act of economic sabotage aimed at starving the city.

Kabul's residents are preoccupied with finding enough to eat.

Shah said he couldn't afford rice. Three-kilogramme sack now costs 1,800 afghanis (\$4.62), a little less than half his monthly salary of 4,000 afghanis (\$10.25).

A similar-sized sack of sugar costs 2,000 afghanis (\$5.13), a single egg sells for 35 afghanis (9 cents) and a kilogramme of mutton is 850 afghanis (\$2.43).

The price increases have been partially offset by a fall in vegetable prices as fresh, locally grown produce comes on the market. Onions and potatoes have both dropped from about 500 afghanis (\$1.29) for three-kilogramme sacks to 320 afghanis (87 cents).

The greatest problem, however, is the rising price of flour.

"An Afghan will be hungry unless he gets three nans every day," said a Western relief expert. "This is the mainstay of the Afghan diet."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 News in French
15:50 Flying Doctors
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Local series
16:10 Local programme
16:15 Programme review
16:20 News in Arabic
16:25 Arabic series
16:30 Programme review
16:35 Local programmes
16:40 News in English
16:45 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

16:50 Les Figue Assiettes
16:55 Documentary
17:00 News in French
17:05 Weekly Sport magazine
17:10 News in Hebrew
17:15 Varieties
17:20 The Golden Girls
17:25 "Around the World in 80 Days"
17:30 News in English
17:35 Shadow of the Noose

PRAYER TIMES

04:29 Fajr
05:54 Sunrise (Source) Dhuhr
12:40 Dhuhr
12:48 Asr
12:57 Maghreb
20:51 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terminus Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71351
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 71261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 717151
Assiuta International Church Tel. 655226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer conditions will continue to prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: Min./max. temp. 18 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 39
Deserts 18 / 38
Jordan Valley 23 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 31.6 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN: Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Dr. Ahmad Othman 786384
Dr. Issa Haddad 897007
Dr. Mohammad Azzam 664266
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
ZARQA: Dr. Yahya Al Tariq 965417
Khalifeh pharmacy 965417
EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 892226
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 842402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (Directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 794111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381322
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 642616
Al-Bashir Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669151
Al-Muhsin Hospital 842945
University Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mohajira 7710173
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Queen Alia Hospital 8916115
Amal Hospital 6672279
ZARQA: Zarga Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarga National Hospital 09991071
Im Sina Hospital 09987532
IBRAHIM: Princess Basma Hospital 02275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272225
Im Al-Nabtes Hospital 02247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital 05314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Damascus (RJ)
11:40 Bucharest (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:45 Athens (RJ)
16:05 Doha (RJ)
16:15 Cairo (RJ)
16:20 Kuwait (RJ)
16:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45 Larissa (RJ)
17:45 Athens (RJ)
18:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:15 Istanbul (RJ)
18:45 Bucharest (RJ)
19:10 Athens (RJ)
19:30 Baghdad (RJ)
20:00 Rome (RJ)
21:15 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 London (BA)
10:30 Dubai (EK)
11:10 Frankfurt (LH)
14:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:20 Bahrain, Riyadh (GF)
15:30 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
16:25 Baghdad (AF)
01:15 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple (golden) 250 / 250
Apple (Eshab) 300 / 300
Apple (mishab) 280 / 240
Apple (red) 250 / 280
Banana 250 / 250
Banana (Mukammal) 350 / 300
Banana 320 / 450
Cabbage 100 / 80
Carrot 250 / 200
Cauliflower 250 / 250
Cucumber 250 / 150
Cucumber (large) 300 / 220
Cucumbers (small) 500 / 400
Eggplant 150 / 100
Garlic 2200 / 800
Grape 250 / 250
Grape (red) 250 / 250
Guava 400 / 300
Lemon (yellow) 300 / 250
Lemon (green) 250 / 200
Mango (large) 300 / 250
Mango (small) 600 / 500
Olive 250 / 250
Orange 500 / 450
Onion (dry) 200 / 150
Peach 700 / 700
Pepper (hot) 220 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 100
Potato 250 / 200
Tomato 140 / 100



NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES PAKISTAN: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday cabled congratulations to Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Pakistan's Independence Day anniversary. In his cable, the King wished the Pakistani president good health and the people further progress and prosperity. On this occasion, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held Monday at the Pakistani embassy premises. (Petra)

KING VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited the Prime Ministry and conferred with Prime Minister Shafiq Zaid Ibn Shaker. The King gave his directives about a number of issues. (Petra)

QUEEN NOOR TO VISIT VTC: Her Majesty Queen Noor will visit the Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Monday to acquaint herself with projects and future plans. Labour Minister Jamal Bdour is expected to present the Queen with a briefing on the VTC, which was established in 1975, and its endeavours to provide training to Jordanian youth in various trades. Following the visit, the minister will accompany the Queen on a tour of the Manarah Urban Development Centre in Qweismeh. (Petra)

64 NEW DOCTORS: The Ministry of Health and Social Development has decided allowing 65 doctors to practice medicine in the public and private sectors. (Petra)

LOANS FOR FARMERS: The Agricultural Credit Corporation branch in Ajloun has presented loans of JD 7,325 to 48 farmers in the first half of 1989. (Petra)

ARAB-EUROPEAN COMPANY: Representatives of the Arab Pharmaceutical Industries, European pharmaceutical industries and Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce held a meeting Sunday here and discussed a project to establish an Arab-European joint company for the production of primary pharmaceutical materials. They also reviewed all matters related to the establishment of the company as well as a formula for cooperation between the company and the general secretariat.

ASSAD TO HEAD TEAM FOR DAMASCUS MEETING: Jordan is to take part in the fourth conference by Arab Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research due to open in Damascus on Aug. 29. Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad will lead the Jordanian delegation to the three-day meeting. (Petra)

DERMATOLOGIST ELECT NEW PRESIDENT: Dr. Oumeish Yousef Oumeish has been elected as the new president of the Jordanian Dermatological and Venerological Society in Jordan. The society, which groups 100 members, conducts programmes within the Jordan Medical Association to promote medical and health services in the country. (J.T.)

Jordan to take part in industrial fair on Sept. 2

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in an Arab industrial fair which will be organised in Buenos Aires on Sept. 2, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The fair, which is organised by the joint Arab-Argentine Chamber of Commerce is designed to boost cooperation between Argentina and the Arab countries in economic and cultural fields and increase the volume of trade between the two sides.

Jordan hopes to orient the Argentinian public on Jordanian national industrial and agricultural products so that markets for them can be opened in Argentina and Latin America at large, the spokesman said.

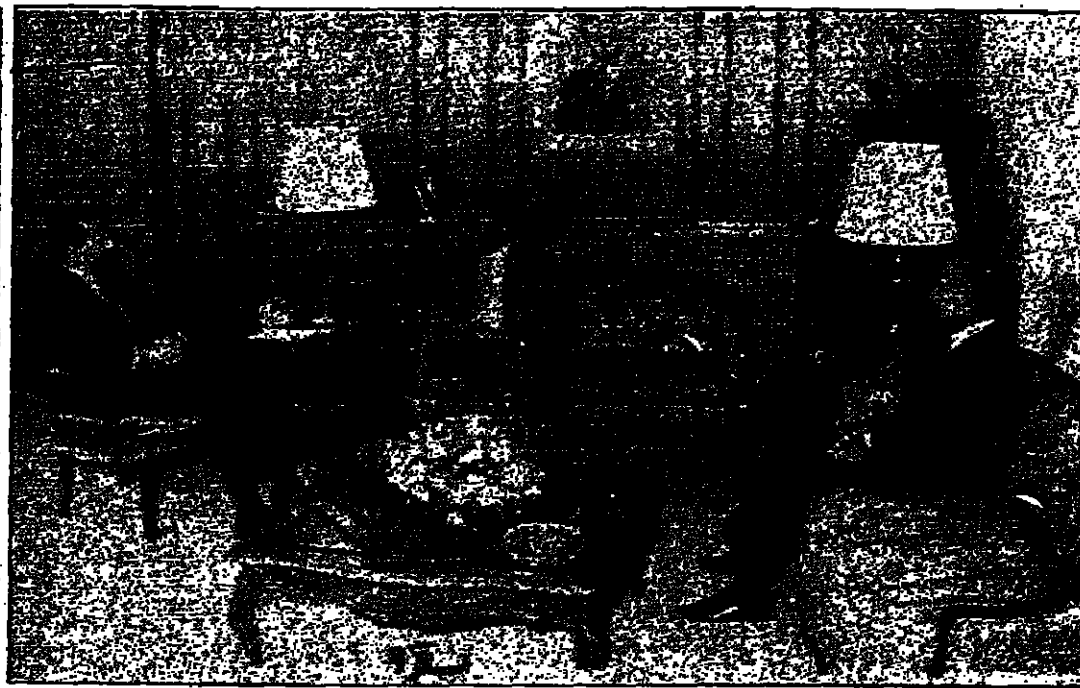
Intensive consultations are underway between the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry's Jordan Commercial

Centres Corporation (JCCC) to determine the volume of Jordanian products to be displayed at the coming fair and the number of Jordanian companies that would participate, the spokesman added.

He said that samples of various industries and oriental and traditional handicrafts will be displayed at the coming fair.

According to a JCCC spokesman Sunday the first national industrial fair which was opened by His Majesty King Hussein Thursday is being visited by large numbers of people.

Thousands have already visited the fair and bought large amounts of products in an unexpected turnout, the spokesman noted. He said that most of the purchases were of handicraft products, industrial items, electrical appliances, computers and foodstuffs.



Prime Minister Shafiq Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday receives Libyan Minister of Health Mustafa Al Zaidi. Also present is Minister of Health and Social Development Zahair Malhas (Petra photo)

Jordan, Libya sign health pact

AMMAN (Petra) — Libyan Minister of Health Mustafa Al Zaidi Sunday wound up a four-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

During the visit, the minister

signed a health agreement paving the way for Jordan and Libya to cooperate in the pharmaceutical industry and for Libya to benefit from Jordan's expertise in pharmaceutical industries and the pro-

duction of vaccines.

Under the agreement signed by Zaidi and his Jordanian counterpart Zahair Malhas, the two countries will give each other priority in registering and marketing medicine produced by either one.

The Libyan minister and his delegation toured a number of medical institutions and pharmaceutical industries in Jordan and discussed cooperation in the exchange of products and marketing matters.

In a statement before departure, Zaidi described his visit as positive and noted that the bilateral agreement would open the way for a greater measure of cooperation not only in pharmaceuticals but also in operating hospitals and health centres, and offering Libyans the chance to train in Jordanian medical institutions.

Zaidi said that the two sides have agreed on joint production of vaccines and in providing one another with technical assistance in health-related fields.

Before leaving, the Libyan minister called on Prime Minister Shafiq Zaid Ibn Shaker and reviewed with him the bilateral agreement.

Sharif Zaid for his part, said that Jordan welcomed any steps that would open the way for cooperation with Libya in medical and health fields.



Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and the director of Arab and North African Affairs Department at the West German Ministry for Economic Cooperation sign a loan agreement.

Amman, Bonn sign DM 67m loan accord

BONN (J.T.) — A Jordanian-West German agreement signed recently in Bonn provides for grants and loans to Jordan during 1989 amounting to DM 67 million and will be spent on ways to help the Kingdom's technological and economic development.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and the director of Arab and North African Affairs Department at the West German Ministry for Economic Cooperation is to help Jordan carry out projects in water and irrigation as well as the on-going preparations for the construction of the Wabdeh Dam on Yarmouk River near the Syrian border.

The two sides also agreed on dispatching more German experts to Jordan to help carry out agricultural projects and execute land reclamation schemes for the purpose of increasing food production.

West Germany has been pro-

viding financial and technical assistance to Jordan to help it carry out a development project in the Zarqa River Basin which is also designed to increase the area of productive land, reduce sediments in the King Talal Reservoir and prevent soil erosion.

In the technological field, the two sides agreed that Bonn should provide vocational and technical training to Jordanian trainees and to help the Kingdom in the course of executing schemes to maintain quality control and standard specifications for manufactured products.

According to a statistical bulletin quoted by the West German embassy in Amman, Bonn's imports of Jordanian products increased over the 1987 and 1988 period by 18 per cent, rising to DM 38.1 million from DM 32.3 million in earlier years.

The statistics show that Bonn's exports to Jordan declined from DM 416 million to DM 311 million over the same periods.

NAF currently distributes JD 187,713 to 9,395 families

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) is currently distributing JD 187,713 to 9,395 needy families in Jordan on a monthly basis, according to Khalil Faouri, the fund's secretary general.

Faouri said that 127 needy families were added to the list of poor people receiving the aid in the past month.

Faouri said that needy people in all urban, rural and badia regions and population settlements benefit from the fund either by receiving lumpsum financial aid to help them start a

business, or through monthly payments that might reach JD 40 for each family.

The NAF, Faouri noted, continually tries to help the head of needy families to obtain decent jobs or to get training in a trade from which to earn a living for their families.

At the same time, he said, NAF maintains a constant study of requests coming in from various areas to determine the need of poor families and help them acquire free medical treatment at government hospitals.

29 per cent of homes use solar heaters

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 29 per cent of the total number of homes in the Kingdom now use solar heaters on their roofs, and they together provide some two per cent of the total energy needed in the country, according to Dr. Ibrahim Badran, the Ministry of Energy's secretary general.

Badran said that the total amount of energy used in the country is estimated to be worth \$400 million of which 40 per cent is being consumed by industry; 28.3 per cent for domestic uses and 31.7 per cent for the other sectors.

"The ministry has been encouraging the public to install solar heaters to heat water for domestic use because this saves a lot of fuel," Badran noted.

He said that Jordan started producing solar heaters in 1963, and so far more than 100,000

heaters have been installed. "To heat water for domestic use, 'no less than eight per cent of the total amount of fuel in Jordan is required; and this is now saved, thanks to the solar heaters produced by private sector companies," Badran added.

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has been spearheading efforts in the use of solar energy mainly for domestic use.

The RSS, in cooperation with the West German institutions has installed solar devices for producing energy to pump underground water and to supply electric power for Jurf Al Darawish, a remote village not connected to the national grid.

The RSS continues the endeavours to help local manufacturing companies to improve their solar heaters.

Locust swarm destroyed west of Mudawarah

AMMAN (J.T.) — A swarm of desert locusts which was discovered in an agricultural field West of the Mudawarah region, near the border with Saudi Arabia, has been eliminated, according to an announcement by Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran.

The swarm of locusts was found to have settled in a 1,000 dunum area while at the early stage of its growth and was completely wiped out by ministry teams equipped with special pesticides, the minister said in an announcement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Badran made an inspection tour of the affected area Sunday and himself supervised the work of the teams involved in combating the dangerous insects in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD).

Petra said that the teams sprayed the region with pesticides and later conducted a survey along the southern and south-eastern borders with Saudi Arabia, and reported that the whole area was void of any migrant locusts that might have invaded the country from Africa or neigh-

bouring regions.

Late last year and early this year waves of desert locusts were fought off and completely annihilated after crossing into Jordanian territory from Saudi Arabia.

According to Badran's announcement, Jordan has so far escaped from the large invasions of desert locusts which were expected since the past spring.

Badran, in an address to a three-week training seminar on combating desert locusts last month called on the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to establish a regional data bank in the Middle East linked to the Rome-based network so as to monitor the movements of the desert locusts and give early warning to the countries of the region.

Following last year's invasions, Jordan issued an appeal to friend-

ly nations and the United Nations Organisations to extend a helping hand to the Kingdom in its endeavour to fight off the pest.

Several Arab and foreign countries as well as FAO responded by providing equipment, pesticides and other material to help fight off the dangerous pest.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided the Ministry of Agriculture earlier this year with air tractors — small planes specially equipped to spray pesticides — and Japan provided vehicles to carry spraying equipment in the desert.

According to specialists, a swarm of desert locusts in a one square kilometre area might contain 40 million locusts which eat up to 120 tonnes of plantation in one day.

According to these specialists there is a great deal of uncertainty in predicting the movement of locusts. They said changing weather conditions, shifts in winds or areas in Saudi Arabia where locusts have not yet been controlled could result in the pest invading Jordan.

National Population Committee briefed on different studies conducted in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The National Population Committee Sunday heard a report on steps so far taken to enable the committee to embark on its programmes.

The committee's secretary, Mohammad Abdul Hadi Al Akel, outlined the steps, which include financial, transport and administrative matters, and said that the committee's office will be housed at the premises of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) whose honorary chairman is Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The Princess was present at the meeting along with Dr. Jamal Bdour, the minister of labour,

who paid tribute to her continued support for social and voluntary activities in Jordan.

Bdour said that the committee's work was of paramount importance for the country's economic and social progress because it adopts policies and programmes designed to promote the condition of people in rural and urban areas.

In outlining the committee's programme, Akel referred to field studies its members conducted in the course of preparing a study on population in Jordan between 1980 and 1989.

The committee members were briefed on studies on motherhood,

childhood and fertility, as well as those conducted on the Jordanian workforce, women's participation in development and migration of people.

Akel also presented a report which referred to a donation of \$150,000 to the committee from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The donation, he said, will finance the committee's research work and pay for related services.

Dr. Majid Khazraj, an expert from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, was also present at the meeting.

ACC Awqaf ministers to meet Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is seeking to establish a council to coordinate work among ministries of Awqaf and Islamic affairs in the four member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to fight hostile attempts directed against Islam, Minister

of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said Sunday.

The minister said that this proposal will be submitted to a meeting in Baghdad Tuesday.

Khayyat, who leaves for the meeting Monday, said that the

four ministers will discuss coordination among their respective ministries in propagating Islam, a joint plan for investing Waqf (religious) funds, a plan for an exchange of expertise and publications in religious affairs and setting up Islamic exhibitions.



Iraqi students visit Yarmouk

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan had a discussion here Sunday with a delegation representing university students in Iraq over Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in cultural affairs in general and cooperation between universities from the two countries in particular. Hamdan also briefed the visitors on Yarmouk University's developments and programmes, with particular briefing on the faculty of technology known as the Hijawi Technological College for Applied Engineering. Hamdan also outlined the university's continued cooperation with Arab and foreign universities. Dr. Rafiq Seifuddin Mahmoud, the head of the Iraqi delegation, thanked Hamdan and presented him with the emblem of the General Union of Iraqi University Students.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

— A plastic art exhibition by Jordanian Artist Maha Abu Ayyash at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.

FILM

— A French film entitled "Les Zozos" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

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Weekly Political Pulse

Right to vote for all

By Waleed Sadi

ONE of the reasons offered for disenfranchising the members of our armed and police forces is the desire to maintain such sectors of the Jordanian society apolitical. The volatile history of the Middle East has something to do with this verdict as the armies of many Middle Eastern countries — not to mention most of the developing countries — became the pivotal instruments for change of government or regimes in the form of coups d'etat or otherwise. This state of affairs had led many concerned observers to conclude that by de-politicising the armed forces of the developing countries, it would become possible to neutralise these forces and prevent them from dictating the course of their respective countries by sheer force and in a way out of proportion to their size within those countries.

Another thesis also often advanced in this regard, speaks of the wish to keep state agencies and governmental machines away from the limelight of politics in order to keep them strictly professional and to avoid the accusation that the central government is interfering with the political landscape of the nation through its own apparatus.

But do these propositions really hold much water in countries aspiring for democratic elections? To begin with, armed and security forces are not apolitical and cannot be. To ever presume that soldiers and policemen are immune to political currents is hypocritical and nonsensical. In these days of the approaching 21st century, it would be more correct to assume that our sons and daughters in the army or police are just as much involved in

politics and affected by political currents and decisions as anybody else. After all man is a political animal and no matter how much effort is made to conceal or hide that fact, he or she would remain so as much as any other citizen. It is common knowledge that our people in these forces read and watch the news and are affected by what they hear and see on television and radio whether domestic or foreign. To still maintain that these men and women can remain apolitical is contrary to all empirical evidence surrounding their lives and professions.

As for the argument that by denying the armed and police forces the right to vote the state can succeed in keeping these forces professional in the strictest sense, is also devoid of real and substantiated evidence. Some of the finest armed forces in the world give their men and women the right to vote. None of these countries have ever complained about weakening the professionalism of their forces because they were able to exercise a right that belongs to every citizen. In the real professional sense, one political orientation or another need not, and indeed in the case of armed and security forces, should not affect their professional duties and obligations. The mission of these forces is to protect the country from external and internal enemies. On such grave mandates, one's soldiers' political perspectives should never be allowed to interfere with the implementation of such national missions. Indeed many sophisticated countries have succeeded very well in such endeavours. As a matter of fact the countries which franchised their armed and security forces had the least to

worry about their allegiance in defence of their homeland. Others fear that by allowing members of the armed and police forces to vote the government could be accused of exploiting its hold and control over such forces in such a way as to deter the outcome of elections in its own favour. Again this is a shallow argument as no government has that kind of control over the secret votes of their apparatus be they civilian or otherwise. Besides, no regime or government has a vested interest in having its bureaucracy or armed forces vote en bloc in favour of its candidate or the other. In fact the opposite is true. Regimes and governments would very much want their public servants, be they civilians or military, to participate in the election of parliament. After all they are also citizens and have a duty and a right to elect their representatives in accordance with their opinions and judgements.

Over and above these considerations and other related ones, if our soldiers and policemen can be trusted with the defence and security of their nation, surely they can be trusted with the right to vote and express a preference of one candidate over the other. It is much better to let their political feelings and opinions out in the open rather than being pent up in their inner minds and souls. And since there is no constitutional constraints on according the members of our armed and police forces the right to exercise their right to vote, it would be wise of the next elected parliament to amend existing laws by reverting to our cherished members of our armed and security forces the right to vote.

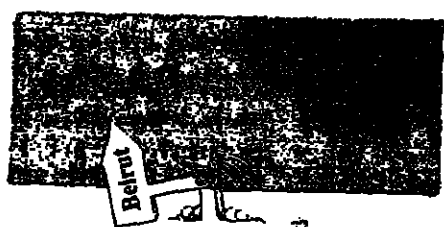
Lopsided perspective

AS THE months tick away in the life of the Palestinian intifada, the international community appears to be getting numb to the news of additional Palestinian casualties that occur everyday. This is in naked contrast with the commotion that is always stirred every time an Israeli gets killed or injured in the process. This lopsided perspective suggests that Arab lives and blood in the eyes of the world are considered cheap and can be spent with ease and without remorse. So, as every day of the intifada brings in new number of killings among the struggling Palestinians, the world looks on with indifference and glazed eyes as if the split blood is of no concern to humanity.

Only a few days ago the Palestinian uprising entered its 21st month with no clear sign that the Israeli government even cares about the human lives that are being sacrificed on a routine daily basis. On the other hand every time an Israeli gets killed by a Palestinian, the Israeli government literally screams down the door of every Arab house for not coming out with the harshest condemnatory expressions and sentiments. Very conveniently ignored is the reality that the killing of Palestinians goes on in the West Bank and Gaza Strip unabated as if the Israelis are engaged in a legitimate hunt in a Palestinian reserve.

To be sure, with each and every drop of blood that is shed on the altar of the Palestinian intifada, Palestinian-Israeli relations sink to new lows. It is high time that the Israeli ruling establishment stops taking comfort in the daily deaths and injuries among the Palestinians. Better still, Israelis would be well-advised not to take the daily murders as serving as some kind of deterrence against the Palestinian uprising.

In point of fact, there is hardly a people which did achieve self-determination and independence without toll and blood. This obviously holds true for the Palestinians as well. And the more blood is spilt, the closer gets the day of reckoning when the oppressor has to yield to the oppressed. That is the "sonnet" of political freedom and independence ever since man developed the sense of nationalism. Thus instead of entertaining false hopes that killing Palestinians everyday would shorten the life span of the intifada, the Israeli government should realise that such additional blood is additional nails in the Israeli occupation's coffin.



Waleed — Al Dostour

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian dailies on Sunday commented on the situation in Lebanon in view of the indiscriminate shelling of residential areas and the loss of innocent life. Al Ra'i for its part said that the barbaric shelling has now reached a peak, killing people and destroying what remained of the Lebanese capital. What is happening in Lebanon is a flagrant defiance to all morals and all human beings and is part of the ongoing conspiracies against the Arab Nation at large, the paper noted. The continuation of the crisis in Lebanon is part of the Israeli campaign to divert world attention from the real terrorist activity committed against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, said the paper. World Zionism seeks to make the world forget about Israeli troops atrocities and turn the attention towards what is happening among Arabs themselves, thus bringing a breathing space to Israel which has been subjected to world-wide criticism for its barbaric actions in Palestine, continued the paper. It should be remembered, said the paper, that if the Arab World fails to take a real drastic action to stop the massacre, the door will remain open for external forces to intervene with unpredictable consequences to the whole region.

Al Dostour said that regardless of the cause for which each of the conflicting parties is struggling to serve, the ongoing fighting in the Lebanese capital cannot be tolerated any longer. The shelling is directed against Lebanese citizens not against those responsible for the war, and the tragedy is befalling the whole Lebanese not the external forces which hold the power to stop the conflict, the paper noted. It said that the conflicting parties have a great responsibility towards their own people and Lebanon and they are too to blame for the failure of the Arab mediation committee's efforts. We urgently call on the Arab League to breathe a new life in its mediation committee and resort to more drastic measures that can put an end to the bloodshed, said the paper. It said that the situation is so dangerous now that every Arab country should rally forth and join forces with the Arab League to end the tragedy of the Lebanese people.

Sawt Al Shamal daily commented on the situation in the Jordanian financial and monetary markets by saying that the dinar seems now on its way to recovery. Thanks to the efforts of King Hussein and the response of the Arab countries spearheaded by Saudi Arabia, the Jordanian currency is now being pepped up and strengthened, lending strength to the national economy, the paper noted. It said that the firm dinar is gradually terminating what has been known before as the black market; and the continued intervention by the Central Bank is bound to bolster the national currency. There is no doubt, said the paper, that the conspiracy hatched against Jordan in the past three months is on its way toward its demise.

Anti-apartheid groups regain offensive

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Sideswiping an array of state-of-emergency bans, the militant core of the anti-apartheid movement is back on the offensive with a defiance campaign that has government leaders groping for a response.

Crushing the campaign by force could wreck the government's ongoing initiatives to improve its international standing. Allowing unchecked civil disobedience could fuel widespread black activism and a white backlash against the governing National Party in advance of parliamentary elections next month. The campaign, launched Aug. 3 when about 270 blacks and Indians sought and received treatment at segregated white hospitals, is led by many of the

activists who have been detained or restricted during the three-year-old state of emergency.

The Mass Democratic Movement says the defiance campaign will be extended soon to other targets, possibly segregated schools and recreation facilities. Mineworkers have begun protesting workplace segregation and 17 former detainees in Cape Town said they would defy the restrictions imposed when they were freed.

"People have decided to take the matter into their own hands," said Essa Moosa, a lawyer involved in the campaign.

The campaign's leaders have designated themselves and their various organisations as the Mass Democratic Movement, a loose alliance which in effect takes the place of the United Democratic Front. The UDF was banned in February 1988, and by late last

year activists were conceding that the emergency crackdown had seriously weakened their organisational prowess.

The first sign of a resurgence came in January, when UDF affiliates helped organise hunger strikes by hundreds of detained black activists. Faced with the prospect of detainees starving to death without ever being charged, the government chose to free virtually every person held under emergency regulations.

Now comes the defiance campaign, which envisions the first sustained use of mass civil disobedience in South Africa since the 1950s. Its masterminds are activists who have proved their resilience and persistence.

Two of the Mass Democratic Movement's key leaders are Murphy Morobe and Mohammad Valli Moosa, UDF officials who

escaped from detention to sanctuary at the U.S. consulate last year. The government allowed them to emerge without the restrictions imposed on many other UDF leaders.

Another key component of the new movement is the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the main black labour federation, which has blatantly defied a government decree barring it from political activity.

The government may have trouble responding decisively to the defiance campaign because of a partial power vacuum at the top. President P.W. Botha will retire after the Sept. 6 election, and neither he nor his designated successor, F.W. de Klerk, has been eager to make bold moves in recent weeks.

The government's point man in coping with the defiance cam-

paign is Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok. He asserted last month that the organisers sought to provoke violence and had endorsed hand-grenade attacks on election candidates.

The Mass Democratic Movement denied the allegations and mocked Vlok after the hospital protest proceeded peacefully, with minimal disruption to health services.

Vlok belittled the protest as "political pestering" but said further acts of defiance "are a time bomb that could explode at any moment."

Health Minister Willie van Niekirk complained that sick blacks had been used as pawns and said no hospitals elsewhere in "the civilised world" would be targeted by protesters. Anti-apartheid leaders agreed, saying no civilised country's hospitals

would be racially segregated. The Citizen, a pro-government newspaper, conceded in an editorial Friday that the activists "scored a propaganda victory, highlighting segregation at white hospitals, issuing defiant statements and challenging the authorities without suffering any serious consequences."

The Citizen said the government might regret its decision to avoid a pre-emptive crackdown on the protest's organisers.

The government's dilemma has been aggravated by the fact that its current policy documents repudiate racial discrimination. Vlok himself declared during the week that "apartheid is no longer the policy of the national party."

If Vlok was speaking the truth, said Morobe, then the defiance campaign would only be of help.

Capitalism too has social challenges to confront

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Reviving a damaged, stultified society is a Herculean task. Revolutionaries thought they had a shortcut formula — take power, give orders, enforce them. The striking phenomenon as the 20th century nears its end is the new demonstration that this formula doesn't work.

It has long been recognised that power corrupts. What the totalitarian countries are only coming to see is how much it corrodes the very capacity to shift to the more difficult but ultimately more effective road of reform. Dispersing power without provoking chaos that will bring some new dictatorship turns out to be harder than amassing it.

Mikhail Gorbachev has already been driven a great deal further than he ever imagined would be necessary when he set out to inject a little nerve into his economy. Compare what he is doing now with the programme he laid down at the 1986 party congress, just over three years ago.

Then his idea of vigorous reform was to develop technology,

cut back alcohol and introduce a little slack in the tight system of central planning and farm collectives.

He has had to accept strikes, ethnic upheavals, exposure of old lies — and perestroika has not yet begun to produce. There is still a much longer way to go, and many unforeseen perils.

The surprise is that he plunges on — with challenges, to be sure, but with enough support to keep heading for the goal.

China's Deng Xiaoping audaciously set out on market reforms a decade ago. They worked stunningly up to a point. But the market wasn't really freed, only at the margins. Remaining controls inevitably brought corruption and demands for political reform.

That was too much for him, and he thought he could set clear limits with repression. Now China is sliding backward on its economic opening, with new constraints on foreign enterprises. Everything will slow down. Hard-earned expertise is lost as students abroad decline to go home. Still, the direction has been set

and the conclusion is clear. Marxism-Leninism as it has been practiced is reaching the end of the road. Whatever the dangers of geopolitics, there is no longer a Communist threat to the rest of the world.

As John Lloyd says, writing in the Financial Times, the various Communist countries seeking to create a market economy may have made "the Faustian bargain with the market, and it cannot be delivered." They are facing the capitalist woes of unemployment, huge dislocation, inequalities, rampant inflation, which their people may simply refuse to tolerate in return for yet another promise for some distant day — reasonable prosperity.

This is because the revolutionary ideals of social justice still have a powerful hold, and because they were partially realised. The system proved incapable "of burying capitalism or even raising living standards, but its rules were known if not loved," Mr. Lloyd points out. "It provided security for people who had never known such a feeling." And, despite the terrors, it provided stan-

dards of social decency and honour in work, even the lowest.

Such goals have not been abandoned — and not in Western societies, either. They are still capable of moving people.

What if the Faustian bargain of a system stripped of its commands but keeping a strong sense of social responsibility does manage to deliver? It is a mistake to imagine that the urge to material benefit and democracy means that those societies want to be "just like us."

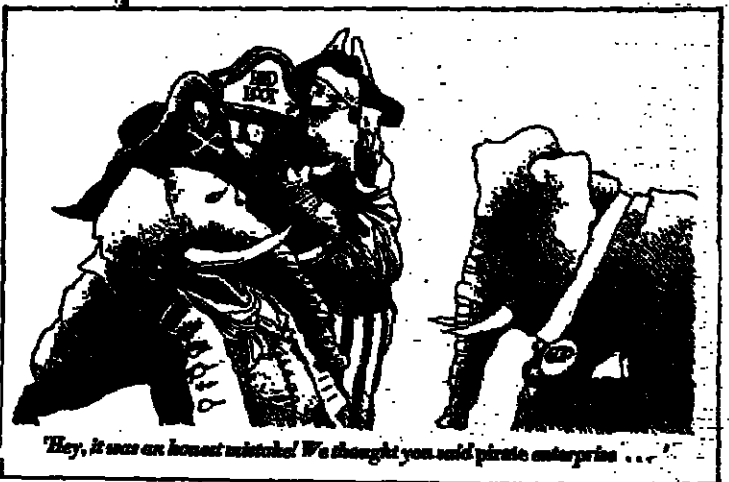
If there is a danger in the possibility of Soviet success, which some conservatives dwell upon, it comes not from the strengths of their society but from the weaknesses of ours, a new comparison which may be looming down the road. Capitalism and freedom have overcome, but not in pure triumph. The next round of competition is likely to be a society race, and not this time against a probably false utopia. Capitalism hasn't enough laurels to rest on. The scourge of drugs should suggest much more than inadequate law enforcement, greed, failed

family responsibility. It has to mean that there is something missing, something that society is failing to provide in its basic promise of community.

America is producing not only youths with inferior education and desire to learn; it is producing crack babies who may be ineducable because of birth defects. It is producing homeless who live on park benches and streets in the midst

of empty buildings where they cannot afford space. Developers are allowed to blow up old buildings that could be repaired, so that they can invest in expensive new ones — another part of the HUD scandal.

The ideals haven't changed; neither have they been achieved. America has the capacity and the social system to do better. That won't be enough, it too, has to deliver — The New York Times.



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الجمهورية العربية السورية

Journalists under attack

Journalist Hugo Bustos Saavedra was killed in the Peruvian Andes in November 1988.

Hugo Bustos, who was based in Huanuco, the capital of Ayacucho province, was a correspondent for the weekly magazine *Caretas*. He was killed while investigating the murder of a woman and her son, allegedly by Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas.

Hugo Bustos was travelling to the scene of the murder with a colleague, Eduardo Rojas Arce. The journalists were on a quiet country road near Huanuco when they passed a Civil Guard patrol; a few minutes later four masked men opened fire on them from bushes beside the track. Hugo Bustos called out: "Run for it. It isn't the Senderistas." Although wounded, Eduardo Rojas managed to escape and he saw the masked men placing explosives on Hugo Bustos's body.

The army maintained that the journalists were attacked by "terrorists" but Eduardo Rojas is convinced that the army itself was responsible for the killing. Other witnesses, who were detained and threatened by the local army garrison after their testimonies and photographs appeared in the national press, agree with Eduardo Rojas. The army knew of the journalists' movements; the local garrison had refused them permission to visit the scene of the crime three times before finally agreeing.

Despite such evidence neither civilian nor armed forces authorities are known to have instituted high-level inquiries into the affair.

The province of Ayacucho was placed under military control in December 1982 as a measure to combat Sendero Luminoso. At the time of Hugo Bustos's death he was the only representative of the national news media still working in Huanuco. He had written several articles criticising the army for human rights abuses and had received death threats.

In many areas of Peru investigators and critics of army abuses have been the targets of death threats, bombings and political killings. Hundreds of Peruvians — including several journalists — are believed to have been killed by members of the security forces. In none of these cases have the killers been brought to justice.

Peru is not the only country in which journalists have risked their lives and liberty to publish information their governments prefer to conceal.

Chadian journalist Saleh Gaba is believed to have died in secret detention in mid-1988, although his death has never been officially acknowledged.

A correspondent for *Agence France Presse* and *Associated Press* news agencies, Saleh Gaba had written a number of articles which the Chadian government considered critical of presidential policies.

Saleh Gaba had been arrested in 1981 and in 1984 because of his work; on neither occasion was he charged. He was detained again in June 1987 — after several months in hiding to avoid arrest — and accused of being the author of a handwritten document announcing that an opposition organisation known as *Mosaneat* had been formed among the Hadjerai, an ethnic group of which he was a member. Again no charges were brought against him.

Since Saleh Gaba's death last year Amnesty International (AI) has received another document from *Mosaneat* — it had been written in the same hand, apparently after his death.

In many countries governments have attempted to silence journalists by imprisoning them or threatening them with imprisonment. AI has investigated cases of human rights abuses against journalists all over the world, many of whom are or may be prisoners of conscience jailed because of their professional activities or for exercising their rights to freedom of expression.

Many governments have resorted to distortion, deception and disinformation to conceal human rights violations. In some countries journalists attempting to report abuses have been imprisoned.

Bedan Mbugua was the editor of *Beyond*, produced by the National Christian Council of Kenya. The publication was banned last year after Mbugua had published articles critical of Kenya's human rights record. He was charged with failing to submit annual sales returns to the Registrar of Books and Newspapers and was prosecuted. In August 1988 he was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, although he was released pending appeal.

Fatma Yazici, editor-in-chief of the Turkish weekly *Journal 2000* (*Towards 2000*), has been on trial since January 1987, charged with some 40 offences relating to articles published in the journal. So far she has been sentenced on three of the charges to over eight years' imprisonment, more than six years of

which has been imposed to punish her for publishing extracts from the Helsinki Watch Committee report on human rights abuses against Turkey's Kurdish minority.

In December 1988 Soviet journalist Sergey Kuznetsov was arrested in the city of Sverdlovsk. He was accused of "defamation" in his unofficial journal *The Courier of Giesnost* (openness). Sergey Kuznetsov had repeatedly been harassed in the months before his arrest; in November 1988 police reportedly broke down the door of his flat and confiscated literature, letters and tapes.

Sergey Kuznetsov claims that he was beaten in police custody — a claim supported by a doctor who examined him shortly after the alleged abuse.

When his trial opened in April 1989 Sergey Kuznetsov and his defence lawyer refused to take part after the court ejected his wife for refusing to give evidence. The hearing was abandoned and Sergey Kuznetsov was sent to a centre for psychiatric examination. In the past scores of Soviet prisoners of conscience have been held against their will in psychiatric hospitals after being examined at this centre.

Journalists working in countries where governments face civil unrest have been particular targets for the authorities.

During the numerous anti-government, pro-democracy demonstrations in Burma in 1988 the local Associated Press correspondent U Sein Win sent several reports to his agency. Colleagues described these as "independent and objective."

In the course of his work U Sein Win interviewed a former political leader and friend, Brigadier General Aung Gyi, who had criticised what he described as the government's economic mismanagement and the brutality of action taken against unarmed protesters in which thousands were shot dead or wounded by the army. U Sein Win was arrested and held for nearly a month, as were Aung Gyi and a number of his political associates.

In 1963 U Sein Win had been awarded the Golden Pen of Freedom prize by the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers for his work in fostering a free press that he was not until May this year that he was allowed to leave Burma to collect his prize.

Since the beginning of the Palestinian intifada (uprising) in the West Bank and Gaza in December 1987 Palestinian journalists in Israel and the occupied territories have been placed under administrative detention orders — usually issued for six months but renewable — apparently because of articles they have written about the intifada.

Those detained include Ribhi Al 'Aruji, who until the time of his arrest in February 1988 worked for the Arabic edition of the newspaper *Derech Hanzizot/Tariq Al Sharara*. Later four Israeli Jewish editors on the paper were arrested and the paper's licence was revoked.

Ribhi Al 'Aruji was held until August 1988; in January 1989 the four other editors were sentenced to up to 30 months' imprisonment on charges which included "providing service for a forbidden association." It was alleged that their newspaper had been funded by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Brian Sokutu, a freelance journalist in South Africa, was arrested in June 1986. He was detained without trial for nearly three years under State of Emergency regulations.

Before his arrest he had been sent by the *Eastern Province Herald* to report a memorial service for the former general secretary of the South African Communist Party. The police maintained that the service was an illegal gathering and demanded his notes and photographs which they said were required for evidence. The newspaper was later subpoenaed to produce his notes.

Brian Sokutu was released in March 1989 but placed under restrictions.

Another journalist detained under South Africa's State of Emergency regulations was Zwelakhe Sisulu, editor of *The New Nation*. He was held without charge or trial for two years until December 1988; he was then released but was placed under such severe restrictions that he was unable to return to his job. Journalists who work for publications of political parties, movements and trade union organisations, or for publications aligned with them, have also been detained without trial or sent to prison.

In China dozens of supporters of the democracy movement of the late 1970s were imprisoned in connection with periodicals they had produced or to which they had contributed.

Xu Wenli was arrested in 1981 and later sentenced to 15 years'

imprisonment, part of which was imposed for producing a journal calling for political change. Wei Jingsheng, a fellow campaigner who among other activities edited a magazine calling for democracy, was also sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for "counter-revolutionary activities."

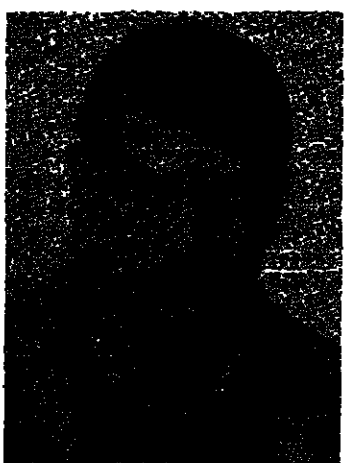
Both spent long periods confined in harsh conditions, segregated from fellow prisoners. Xu Wenli has not been allowed to see his wife or daughter for over three years. Both men are reported to be in poor health.

Femi Aborisade is the editor of *Labour Militant*, a socialist newspaper in Nigeria. He was arrested in February 1989 by officers of the State Security Service and taken to their headquarters in Lagos; in mid-June he was reportedly being held incommunicado without access to his lawyer or his family. He was believed to be detained under the State Security Decree, which denies the courts any power to question such detentions.

No reason has been given for Femi Aborisade's detention. However last October his newspaper called for the release of imprisoned trade unionists among whom were bank workers' leaders detained without charge.

In Libya eight journalists and writers were imprisoned for almost 10 years because of articles they had written for the government-owned publications *New Dawn*, *Cultural Weekly*, and *Political Weekly*.

One of them recently told AI that the eight had written about social and political issues including Arab nationalism and the lack of freedom in Libya. They were



Ribhi Al 'Aruji, detained by the Israeli authorities in 1988. Four of his colleagues received prison sentences.

arrested in December 1978 and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1980 under Law 71 of 1971, which prohibits any "gathering, organisation or group... based on a political concept opposed... to the principles of the Fatah Revolution." They were released in March 1988 under an amnesty.

In some countries it is a criminal offence to publish information deemed critical of the authorities. Common charges against those who write or publish such information are "misinforming the public," "disseminating false information" or "insulting the state authorities."

Until his arrest in April 1989 Zennun Celaj worked on the Albanian-language newspaper *Rilindja*, published in Pristina, the capital of Yugoslavia's Kosovo province. Zennun Celaj had reported on strikes at the Trepcja zinc mines in February 1989 when miners went on hunger-strike demanding the resignation of political leaders and protesting against proposed constitutional changes to reduce Kosovo's autonomy.

Zennun Celaj was accused of "disseminating false information." He was held for almost a month and investigated under Article 188 (2) of Kosovo's criminal code; during this period he was dismissed from his job by *Rilindja*'s disciplinary commission. The charges against him were then dropped and he was released.

Over the last few years journalists in Chile have frequently suffered abuse in the course of their work. Those reporting or photographing demonstrations have been brutally beaten by police or



Juan Omar Boukheib, one of eight Libyan journalists and writers imprisoned for almost 10 years and released in 1988.



Hugo Bustos at work in the Peruvian Andes. He was killed by men believed to be members of the Peruvian Army.

their civilian agents. Journalists have been prosecuted for offending the armed forces and some cases imprisoned for short periods because they had written articles criticising the army's policies.

Juan Pablo Cárdenas, the editor of the weekly opposition magazine *Analisis*, was held each night in prison for almost 18 months for "insulting the president." He was released from night imprisonment in December 1988 but must report to the authorities once a month. Some 18 journalists still face prosecution by Chile's military tribunals.

Many journalists face a dilemma. On the one hand their profession demands that they investigate and publish the facts about often complex situations. On the other hand governments often wish to suppress such facts, particularly when they relate to political or economic issues, or to human rights violations. Journalists who persist in publishing information their governments would prefer to conceal increasingly risk detention, imprisonment, torture, and in some cases death.

Amnesty International Newsletter.

The rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of belief are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in legal form, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The ICCPR has been ratified in many of the countries in which journalists have been the victims of human rights violations. Governments which deny civil and political rights to journalists flout international law and often flout their own constitutions.

Excited Tangier prepares for taste of former glory

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

aristocratic exiles. Not all Tangier's residents are quite so enthusiastic.

TANGIER — Tangier is buzzing with excitement in anticipation of the sort of party not seen since the heady times of its international heyday.

U.S. publishing magnate Malcolm S. Forbes, possessor of one of the world's great fortunes, is throwing his 70th birthday party on Aug. 17 in the grounds of his palace in the city.

Forbes is chairman and editor-in-chief of Forbes business and financial magazine. The 1988 Forbes 400, the magazine's annual list of the richest people in America, said Forbes has a net worth of between \$400 million and \$1 billion.

He has hired an airliner to shuttle more than 800 guests across the Atlantic from the United States to join at least 200 others from Morocco and Europe for a bash costing millions of dollars.

A hotel on the seafloor has been requisitioned for guests crowded out of the private villas of wealthy friends. It is being completely refurbished for the occasion at a cost of at least \$1 million.

But what has really set the tongues wagging in the deliciously gossipy city is the guest list.

Elizabeth Taylor will dance the night away along with the likes of Mick Jagger, Ronald and Nancy Reagan, Walter Cronkite, Betsy Bloomingdale of the chic New York department store, Henry Kissinger and Mark Thatcher, son of the British prime minister.

U.S. television personality Barbara Walters and Katherine Graham, chairman of the Washington Post, will be there, as will newspaper magnates Robert Maxwell and Rupert Murdoch and a host of media stars.

"The international jet set, the glitterati, will all be here. Tangier, nowhere, has seen a party like it for years," said Elena Coon Prentice, an American now living in Tangier.

"Of course I'm going. Everybody is," said the honourable David Herbert, a stalwart of the declining British contingent of

aristocratic exiles. Not all Tangier's residents are quite so enthusiastic. "I think it is rather tasteless in a world where so many people are starving. Such unnecessary expenditure," said John Sutcliffe, a Briton who has lived in Tangier for 25 years.

The White Russian princesses may no longer play cards on the terrace of the creaky hotel Minzah, the aristocrats and socialites may be fewer on the ground and the spies may have gone, but Tangier has not lost its cosmopolitan flavour.

Located on the tip of Africa, only seven miles from the Straits of Gibraltar where the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean meet, the city is still a melting-pot of Arab, African and European cultures.

"All these different influences, all the different nationalities, have left their mark on Tangier. It is truly international and totally unlike any other Moroccan city," said Jacques Fabre, a long-time French resident.

For many, Forbes's party will be a reminder of the best of the "good old days" when beiresses such as Barbara Hutton of the Woolworth millions regularly threw fabulous parties.

Between 1925 and 1956, Tangier had the unique status of being administered by a committee of eight countries — Belgium, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United States.

The easy-going international tax haven attracted a variety of characters, including adventurers, writers, artists, eccentrics, smugglers and drug dealers.

Many left after the city was incorporated into the rest of Morocco in 1956 when the country regained its independence, but others stayed to end their days in their adopted home.

The interior decorators and designers were busy last week putting the finishing touches to the Forbes home — a palace which once belonged to the sultan's local representative.

Caterers said their biggest headache was creating the specially-ordered giant birthday cake.

Playwrights use humour in play about Mideast

By Paul Ben-Itzak
Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — When the San Francisco Mime troupe decides to spoof a hot international topic, no subject is too serious for its satire — not even Israeli-Palestinian strife.

The slightly inaccurately named Mime troupe is now performing a musical comedy about the Middle East that has theatre-goers laughing all the way to the tragic ending.

Mime troupe head writer Joan Holden, working with Israeli director Sinai Petri, Palestinian-American comic Emily Shihadeh and other Jewish, and Arab writers, has created "Seeing Double."

The musical is a mistaken-identity farce that makes fun of the various factions in Israel and advocates a two-state solution to strife between the two sides.

In the troupe's production, Salim Razali, a Palestinian American, journeys to Israel with a deed proving that his West Bank cousins own land on which their house sits, hoping to stop an Israeli plan to demolish the house and evict the Razalis.

At the same time, David Goldberg, a Jewish American, is bringing his militant settler relatives a computer diagram supporting their biblical claim to the same land. A black actor, Michael Sullivan, plays both Salim and David.

Salim and David are mistaken for each other, with Salim ending up with the Israeli Goldbergs and David being taken in by the Razalis. As each sees the conflict from the point of view of the other side, the audience is also taken on a political tour of Israel.

"There are so many different kinds of Jew-dudes here" a frustrated Salim tells the audience after meeting a Jewish radical from California who hates Jews, a Jewish soldier who refuses an order to blow up the Razalis's house, militant Jewish settlers from Brooklyn and idealistic kibbutzniks.

Along with its labyrinthine picture of Middle East politics, the play's message that everyone is basically the same is conveyed by the troupe's multi-racial actors playing several roles each.

One of them, Japanese-American actress Keiko Shimozato plays the radical from Berkeley, Salim's grandmother, a militant Jewish settler's daughter and a Palestinian boy arrested for throwing stones at troops.

The playwrights were challenged to balance their dual roles as comedy writers and portrayers of their people's respective points of view.

The Arab and Jewish authors agreed the play could not have been written before the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace overtures last year, a move that advanced the idea of a two-state solution.

They also agreed that the play had to be a comedy, Peter said. The Mime troupe — which has satirised everything from apartheid to corporate greed — was a perfect vehicle for such a musical.

After 28 years of performing its spirited political comedies free in city parks, the Mime troupe received national acclaim in 1987 when it won a Tony award, Broadway's equivalent of the Hollywood Oscars.

Peter said the troupe's comedy touch was appropriate for tackling the Middle East conundrum. "When a hero takes a fall on the stage, we (an audience) do two things," he said. "First, we laugh because it's very funny the way he falls and, second, we

begin examining why he fell."

After agreeing on the basic idea for the play, the writers discovered they had many disagreements. "We had many screaming arguments," said Holden.

Peter said each of the writers wrote jokes from his own tradition. The Jewish playwrights wrote lines for the Jewish characters, and the Palestinian and Arab-American authors were responsible for their characters.

"The general agreement we made was to be honest about our shortcomings," Holden said. "That Israelis see Israelis honestly, and Palestinians see Palestinians honestly — their shortcomings... you can't trust someone who holds back."

Peter said the writer tried not to dwell on the history of the Palestinian-Israeli discord but instead focused on the issues of

survival and the future.

"The play at times seems overburdened with points of view, and Holden has pledged to hone it so that it puts a greater emphasis on comedy, such as this 'settler's rap' performed by Jewish militants:

"I come from Brooklyn and I wear a funny hat,

And that's where I learned not to take no crap.

It says love thy neighbour in the holy book

But it also says you gotta have a good right hook."

In the end, Salim and David — this time performed by puppets — meet in the Razalis's home.

Seconds after they timidly shake hands, the house is demolished when a bomb accidentally detonates. Keeping with the theme of mistaken identity, one is killed — but the audience is not told which one.

Khrushchev once again stalking Soviet political landscape

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuter

MOSCOW — The spectre of Nikita Khrushchev is stalking the Soviet Union, bolstering the assaults on the bloody legacy of dictator Josef Stalin and the "period of stagnation" under Leonid Brezhnev.

His memoirs — long available in the West — are at last being serialised in his own country, 18 years after his death.

And each day in August queues snake along outside Moscow's House of Youth for the first major Soviet exhibition on his 10 years in power, 1954-1964.

The roly-poly peasant's son,

whose career ended when he was unceremoniously dumped by his colleagues in the Soviet leadership, is now enjoying something of a vogue.

The exhibition, set up by a group of young historians, reveals that there were many Khrushchevs, each one captured brilliantly in a broad range of dramatic photographs.

There is Khrushchev as leader of a great power, greeting heads of state, touring the United States, rallying the people. Or Khrushchev the ceremonial figure, welcoming home the first man in space, reviewing the troops in Red Square.

But what gives the exhibition, "Khrushchev: Those 10 years,"

its power is clearly Khrushchev the man — part cheerleader, part shrewd Russian peasant, part saviour.

It is this last role that draws the biggest crowds, with people jamming together six deep in front of a map of Stalin's vast system of labour camps or gulags, which was largely dismantled and its victims rehabilitated under Khrushchev.

People scribble notes, study the trumped-up charges, and read the government pardons which often came too late.

Across the opposite wall, past a section of barbed wire fencing dotted with day-old flowers left by visitors, a smiling Stalin in full marshal's uniform delivers his

verdict on the times:

"Life has become better, comrades, life has become more merry."

Nearby, a collage of Lenin, his slanting eyes fixed on the viewer, blends into a picture of "Uncle Joe," estimated to have killed 20 million people.

Valdimir Ustinov, a small bent-backed man with a mouthful of teeth ruined in one of Stalin's camps, peered as if looking in a mirror at the official prison photographs of the condemned men in the gulags.

"I was there. And now I'm here," he said to no one in particular. "Khrushchev did a lot of good. I owe him my life."

Such a view is only now coming

to the fore, as an entire society appears to be reassessing a man who, after his demise, was reviled at home.

Once the butt of jokes for his "hare-brained schemes" to plough up the virgin lands of the Kazakh steppe and plant corn like the Iowa farmers he had so admired, Khrushchev is now seen more as the godfather of the current "perestroika" reform programme.

His "secret speech" denouncing Stalin, delivered to the 20th communist party congress in 1956, was finally published here this spring.

And in April, 2,000 people marking the 95th anniversary of the birth heard gulag survivors

and intellectuals persecuted under Brezhnev declare that the reforms now under way would have been impossible without Nikita Khrushchev.

In the Soviet Union, where history often involves some sleight of hand, the one-time non-person is making a decisive comeback as part of a broad attack against "Stalinist apparatchiks" and "Brezhnevite obstructionists."

The compelling human figure — poised to bang his shoe on a table at the United Nations, padding down a garden path in peasant boots, napping on a porch in his forced retirement — still reaches the modern viewer across the decades.

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2) AL MAWLED (Arabic)
12:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m.

Bankingmarket: Two words that need separation

By a Jordan Times Staff writer

"DON'T BITE the hand that's feeding you," goes the proverb. Swallowing the time-proven wisdom of the saying, which I was told to understand well 21 years ago, when I flunked a political test, I swore then not to be forced into any indignation again. But, talking economy now and seeing ripe targets, I feel encouraged to savour some banks which are fat enough and deserve some "special fitness courses" as their apothecary, anti-national practices are adversely affecting a large segment of the Jordanian population.

Two years ago, an employee friend of mine was trapped in a cash bind but was rescued when he received a personal loan of sixfold his monthly salary from Bank A. The credit was repayable over a period of 24 months. The security of the loan was the monthly salary transfer to the bank and the signature of two guarantors on the necessary documentation. Few months later, discovering that banking needed shopping, the young man checked with Bank B and found out that personal loans there were eightfold the monthly salary with the same repayment and guarantee terms. Realising that completion was fierce in the "banking market" for the unrisky and primitive way of lending, he

contacted Bank C and, good grief, shook his head in disbelief. At Bank C, the manager offered him tenfold the monthly wage and without any change in the credit terms of banks A and B. Furious for being fooled, my friend hastened to Bank A but the "boom" he was planning to stage did not materialise because he was greeted by the news that the ceiling of personal loans was recently raised to eightfold.

Under the circumstances, there was no alternative for the poor creature but to ask Bank A to reschedule his outstanding debt and demand more cash under the new ceiling. Unlike International Monetary Fund or World Bank procedures, the requests were happily and quickly met because, probably, the bank sensed some risk in the employee's "feasibility study" despite a non-risky history. The readers who felt sorry for the troubles of my friend need not worry today because he is now an expert in the banking trade knowing the tricks of not only personal loans but also those of overdrafts and discount bills. He tells me of the ins and outs of rescheduling in terms of tenure, changing names, guarantee reciprocity and most importantly, the valuable asset of "a manager friendship."

The latest news, he told me few days ago, was that Bank D was suffering from the low volume of lucratively profitable business in letters of credits and that the bank has imposed a flat fee of JD 1.5 every six months on all salary transfers. He noted that the amount was negligible not to alarm the central bank and at the same time to benefit more from the flourishing personal loan transactions.

Concentrating on the personal loans is just the tip of the iceberg of the reforms needed in the banking market to be in line with the national efforts to correct Jordan's economic imbalance. Raising interest rates, imposing additional charges and tightening repayment and security terms are not enough because rich or middle class citizens are resorting to personal loans to cushion themselves against hardships although the move is nothing more than postponing the day of reckoning for each family head, including myself.

The temporary financial relief that I and many people are seeking nowadays serves very well the process of boarding all kinds of items, despite the social struggle of showing off ability to maintain "status" and heightens fears of uncontrollable price rises of non-essential commodities. No-one rules out continuing inflation; but banks, by extending competitive facilities for personal loans, are really making things worse. Inflaming the trend are the

plans of auction announcements, placed by banks in every lane of the Arab dailies, offering hypothecated property of delinquent borrowers. Contrasting the two above-mentioned activities, it is crystal clear that there is something wrong somewhere. Why were the bankers recently demanding the creation of a secondary real estate market? The request obviously hinges on the "unrecoverable" volume of real estate security that the banks hold and on the increasing number of auctions to settle "rotten accounts" noting that if a bank auctions a borrower's property, the move comes after an average of three years of procrastination to settle the dues peacefully. Hence, with an obvious aversion of banks to high risks of agricultural and industrial lending, primitive and non-risky personal lending gathered strength behind windows of automated teller machines (ATMs) and went to meet advanced computers symbolising high Jordanian banking technology. Banking is the art of attracting deposits and, more presently, the art of lending within the framework of trust, honesty and integrity and if the majority of Jordanian banks bank solely on profits regardless of national aspirations or high selectivity of patronage, then there is no choice but to keep banking a market.

India agrees to buy more Jordan potash

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has concluded a deal to sell India half a million tonnes of potash over the coming three years (1990-1992). A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said also that the APC has come to an agreement to supply India with 200,000 tonnes of potash in the second half of this year to raise the total amount of Jordanian potash exported to India to 500,000 tonnes this year. India is the largest importer of Jordanian potash and with the new deals, which were signed in New Delhi, Jordan will have sold 1.35 million tonnes of potash to the Indian nation according to Dr. Wanas Hindawi, director of APC's marketing department. He said that the conclusion of the latest agreement took place during an APC delegation's visit to India headed by the company's Director General Ali Nsour.

Israel, USSR create first joint enterprise

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's agriculture ministry and the Soviet Academy of Sciences have signed an agreement to create a joint agricultural company, officials said Sunday. The announcement carried by Israeli radio comes one day after the Soviet news agency TASS reported the two countries had agreed on their first joint venture, which will make medical equipment. Amram Olmert, director of the government-run Agrideb Company, expressed hope that new farm sector company, Agromir, would help solve the Soviet food crisis.

The Soviet Union cut diplomatic ties with Israel in 1967 to protest Israeli occupation of Arab territories but cultural and tourism exchanges have expanded since the two countries exchanged interest offices in 1987 and 1988.

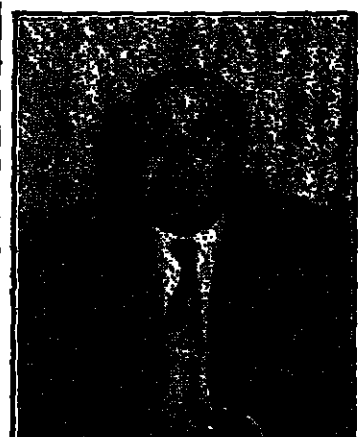
Olmert told Israeli radio that Israel's advanced agricultural technology contributed to the Soviet desire "to cooperate on a concrete, business basis, without any political implications." "I'm not saying that we will solve the Soviet problems, but our joint impression is that we can contribute to this," he said. The radio reported that the agreement was signed Saturday at the end of a 12-day visit by a five-member delegation from the Soviet Academy of Sciences, which surveyed Israeli agricultural techniques. Israel radio said Olmert would travel to Moscow in September, to be followed by other Israeli specialists in October. The daily Hadashot newspaper said the Soviets will import farm and dairy equipment from Israel, as well as 200 cows. It also said Agromir would also create a crop and poultry farm near Moscow.

EMBASSY OF INDIA, AMMAN INDEPENDENCE DAY
On the occasion of India's Independence Day a flag-hoisting ceremony will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1989, at 9.00 a.m. at the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman. All Indian nationals are cordially invited to participate in the ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION/WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR PARTIAL REBIDDING CONTRACT NO. 09/89/ME
Date: 13.08.1989
Loan No.: 2694 JO
IFB No.: 09/89/ME

- The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of Horizontal Pumps, Cables, and Riser Pipes.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Horizontal Pumps, Cables and Riser Pipes.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100, Telex 22439 JO.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in Section V Schedule of Requirements, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 12:00 hours, Jordan local time, Saturday, 09/09/1989.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority



CAEU chief expects firmer Arab ties through ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economy Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim Sunday described the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and other groupings of Arab states as a constructive step towards economic and trade integration within the Arab World.

The leaders of countries involved in these groupings and blocs have explicitly declared their intention of bolstering inter-Arab trade within the context of the Arab common market. Ibrahim said in a statement on the CAEU's 25th anniversary Sunday.

Ibrahim said that the Arab common market aims to free all national products from all kinds of taxes and fees and remove all restrictions that have been impeding trade among Arab states. Referring to CAEU's programmes and activities, Ibrahim said that they all aim at bolstering trade and economic links among Arab states and encourage joint ventures that would lead to full integration.

The birth of the economic unity among Arab states in 1964 came in response to Arab aspirations for unity, Ibrahim added. Ibrahim urged Arab states to contribute most effectively towards bolstering the Arab economic unity which aims to ensure the easy flow of goods and capital from one Arab state to another.

Peronist leader urges farmers to reshape economy

BUENOSAIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem Saturday urged the country's farmers to help his new government revive the hyperinflation-stricken economy.

"Help me change the Argentine economy and put it back on its feet... to defeat the humiliation, the slap in our face (symbolized) by the fact there are millions of Argentines who go hungry and can't satisfy their basic needs in the land of wheat and cattle," he told a farm fair in a televised speech.

The Peronist leader, who took office July 8 and inherited a severe economic crisis, was cheered on by thousands of spectators. In the speech, first by a Peronist president at such a fair in 46 years, Menem announced cuts in export duties on farm products and urged farmers to grow more

grain. "The reductions) create the conditions to boost production, to cram the silos and to fill the central bank's reserves with hard currency," he said. "We need a substantial increase in the sown area for the current crop. The date is to cover an (acreage) at least 20 per cent larger than the previous crops," he declared.

Trade sources said farmers had planned to sow some 10 million acres for the 1989/90 coarse grains' crop, roughly the same as last year.

Farm leaders have complained the real exchange rate paid to producers and traders, after export duties and other taxes are deducted, do not offer incentives to increase output.

"The prices (farmers are paid) will not allow them to sow in many areas and will bar them

from using adequate technologies, thus lowering yield," said Guillermo Alchouron, president of the Argentine Rural Society, the grouping of cattlemen that organised the fair, in a speech before Menem's.

The export duties, which vary from 30 per cent to 44 per cent, would be lowered by up to 28 percentage points for shipments of the 1989/90 coarse grain crops and other farm products, Menem

said. The Peronist government hopes the farm and oil industries will lead an export-driven recovery from the roaring inflation that saw consumer prices rise a record 196.6 per cent in July alone, up from June's 114.5 per cent and May's 78.5 per cent. "A strong increase in agricultural output is the sign others need to see from farmers to recover the confidence they seem to have

lost," agriculture, livestock and fisheries secretary Felipe Sola said. Farm and industry leaders have backed Menem's plans to reduce a massive public sector deficit by suspending subsidies to the private sector, privatising state-owned companies and deregulating sectors of the economy nationalised by party founder Juan Peron in the late 1940s and early '50s.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Sunday, August 13, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	585.2	591.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	412.6	416.7
Pound Sterling	932.0	942.3	Dutch guilder	367.9	370.6
Deutsche mark	301.7	304.7	Swedish crown	89.0	89.9
Swiss franc	349.8	353.3	Italian lira (for 100)	42.0	42.4
French franc	89.4	90.3	Belgian franc (for 10)	144.1	145.5

Japan trade surplus dives

TOKYO (R) — Japan's trade surplus shrank 16.5 per cent in July to \$5.99 billion, under pressure of brisk domestic demand, lagging U.S. economic growth and a stronger dollar, economists have said.

While the July figures were somewhat exaggerated by a firm dollar, economists said the underlying near-term trend is for smaller surpluses because of a slowing U.S. economy and continuing robust Japanese domestic consumption.

The July customs-cleared trade surplus declined from \$7.18 billion a year earlier, finance ministry figures also show.

This was the result of a 9.1 per cent jump in imports to \$17.41 billion and exports 1.1 per cent firmer at \$23.41 billion. "Japanese domestic demand was pretty poor in the second quarter but since then it has picked up," said Jan Vandenberg, economist at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc. Japanese production of cars

and consumer electronics was diverted to exports during the January to March period ahead of the introduction of a three per cent sales tax in April and a marked dip in domestic consumption, analysts said.

Domestic demand rebounded in May, June and July after some expensive products such as cars became cheaper as a result of tax cuts instituted in April when the sales tax was introduced.

That demand redirected production of many goods to the domestic market and, coupled with a slowdown in U.S. consumption, resulted in a pileup of Japanese inventories overseas and weaker export growth, economists said.

"Japanese auto exports (in July) to both the United States and Europe were sluggish," said Hidehiro Iwaki, economist at the Nomura Research Institute. Japan's surplus with the United States in July contracted to \$3.83 billion from \$4.49 billion a year ago.

Auto imports, which make up about 17.2 per cent of Japan's exports, fell 8.5 per cent with the United States and 6.1 per cent with the European Community, said Iwaki.

Overall car exports fell by 6.3 per cent to \$3.21 billion. Economists also blamed softer demand in the United States for a 4.2 per cent fall in video tape recorders and sluggish growth in electrical machinery.

"Electrical machinery has seen a significant inventory buildup in the first quarter," said David Pike, economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International. "This is likely to result in a further depression of exports in the coming months," Pike said.

Japan's exports to the United States grew only 1.3 per cent in July, compared with exports to Asia which rose 5.7 per cent and exports with newly industrialised Asian countries which expanded 4.7 per cent, analysts noted. Meanwhile, Japanese domestic car sales rose 26.5 per cent in June and 34 per cent in May, said Iwaki. Automakers have had to divert output to the booming domestic market.

Philippine inflation, labour unrest bode unsettling future

MANILA (AP) — Rising prices are placing new strains on ordinary Filipinos, threatening social and political unrest as President Corason Aquino seeks to restructure the nation's economy.

According to official figures, consumer prices increased last month by 10.3 per cent — their highest level since Aquino took power in the 1986 uprising that toppled President Ferdinand Marcos.

Prices jumped nearly 12 per cent in the central Visayas islands and Mindanao. In a country where \$300 a month is considered a middle-class salary, any substantial price increase spells hardship for the public and political risks for the government.

"This will hit the citizenry like a cannonball in the eyes," wrote Aquino's former spokesman, Teodoro Benigno. "The gambit comes alive when the public reacts to price increases," Benigno wrote in the Philippine daily Star, a pro-Aquino newspaper.

Public school teachers and other government employees already have been agitating for salary increases which Aquino says the nation cannot afford. "There's no money," wrote columnist Conrado De Quiros in the Philippine daily Globe newspaper.

"Why doesn't the government tell it to foreign banks? why should it tell that to its teachers and workers?" he said, referring to the country's payments on nearly \$30 billion in foreign debt. Domestic and foreign debt payments consume 40 per cent of the national budget.

Teachers have demanded a minimum monthly wage of 4,500 pesos (\$214), up from the current 2,000 pesos (\$95). The official poverty line is about 2,900 pesos (\$138) per month for a family, and the government has agreed to give teachers 3,102 pesos (\$148) a month. "Even now, there is a growing recognition in government that the moderately high growth rates of the last three years are plainly unsustainable," wrote the independent daily newspaper Malaya. "Unless bold measures are undertaken, we might as well kiss recovery goodbye."

Many private economists believe the outlook for the Philippine economy is not altogether gloomy. The economy grew by more than five per cent in 1988 and is expected to increase this year by six per cent.

Agriculture, the source of livelihood for more than 60 per cent of the 58 million Filipinos, grew by more than 10 per cent. Investments jumped more than 106 per cent in the first four months of the year, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Regardless of the impressive economic statistics, the Aquino administration has been unsuccessful in spreading the benefits of that growth to most of the country's people.

The government acknowledges that the poorest third of society receives only nine per cent of the national income, virtually no change from the final years of Marcos' rule.

In Parts of Manila, elegant department stores rivaling those of New York and London stand within a few kilometres of wretched squatter camps, where tens of thousands live in clapboard shanties.

Industrial nations have pledged \$3.5 billion in 1990 to help the Philippine economy. But the government acknowledges that the effects of the aid may not be seen by ordinary Filipinos for years.

Under a controversial policy memorandum to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government agreed to a number of economic austerity measures, including gradually eliminating subsidies on rice, energy, water and other essentials.

That will reduce the budget deficit but is expected to increase consumer prices. The government also is studying an increase in fuel prices. They may be raised by the end of the year depending on the world petroleum market.

During a recent strike by government workers, employees of the central bank carried banners denouncing the IMF and calling for reductions in payments on the country's foreign debt.

Economic planning secretary Sofita Monsod, a respected economics professor, resigned last June after warning that the government's economic policies could lead to social unrest.

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